

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 9-12 and 20-22, as amended, remain herein. Claims 2, 3 and 9 have been amended for clarity. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout applicants' original disclosure, including, for example, specification, page 16, and Figure 3.

1. Claims 2, 3, 10-12 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Tomimoto JP 2000-243034. Claim 2, upon which claims 10-12 depend, recites an adaptive transversal filter for amplifying a signal in a specific band as well as performing waveform equalization for a reproduction signal. The Office Action, page 3 alleges that AAPA Figure 5 shows the adaptive transversal filter of applicants' claim 2. But neither AAPA Figure 5, nor the accompanying disclosure shows or describes an adaptive transversal filter performing both claimed functions. The Office Action, page 4, cites Tomimoto Figure 1, which does not supply this omission. Nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine AAPA with Tomimoto to provide all limitations of applicants' claim 2, and claims 10-12 dependent therefrom.

Claim 3, upon which claims 20-22 depend, has been amended to recite an A/D converter for converting an analog signal into a digital signal, said converter directly connected to the variable gain amplifier. The Office Action, page 4, alleges that AAPA Figure 5 shows an A/D converter connected to a variable gain amplifier. But AAPA, Figure 5 does not show direct connection between the A/D converter and the variable gain amplifier, as claimed. Rather it depicts a low-pass filter positioned between the two components. The Office Action, page 5, cites Tomimoto Figure 1, which does not supply this omission. Nor would it have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine AAPA with Tomimoto to provide all limitations of applicants' claim 3, and claims 20-22 dependent therefrom.

2. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA in view of Tomimoto and Jones U.S. Patent 6,310,909. Claim 4 is dependent upon claim 2, which is distinguished from AAPA and Tomimoto above. Jones fails to supply the omissions of AAPA and Tomimoto.

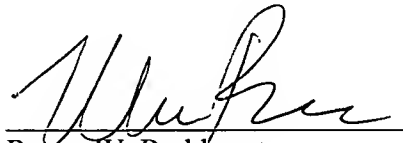
3. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA in view of Tomimoto and Muramatsu U.S. Patent 6,381,203. Claim 9 is dependent upon claim 3, which is distinguished from AAPA and Tomimoto above. Muramatsu fails to supply the omissions of AAPA and Tomimoto.

Thus, none of AAPA, Tomimoto or Muramatsu discloses all elements of applicants' claims. In addition, AAPA, Tomimoto and Muramatsu disclose nothing that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. There is no disclosure or teaching in any of AAPA, Tomimoto or Muramatsu, or otherwise in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of modifying any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Accordingly, all claims 2-4, 9-12 and 20-22 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Parkhurst', written over a horizontal line.

Roger W. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 25,177
William J. Barrow
Reg. No. 62,813

Date: November 12, 2009

1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1795
Tel: (202) 429-3000
Fax: (202) 429-3902

Attorney Docket No. 28951.1181